INTRIGUES OF LOVE:

OR, THE

AMOURS AND GALLANTRIES OF THE *FRENCH* Court,

During the Reign of that Amorous and Warlike Prince

HENRY IV.

(Surnamed the Great.)

Being a true and pleasant History.

Newly made English *from the* French,
By Sir Edwine Sadleyr *Baronet.*

London, Printed for *R. G.* and sold by *Benj. Crayle* at the Peacock and Bible, at the West end of St. *Pauls.* 1689.

[redacted]

To his Belov'd Consort

THE

LADY, S----

In return for the Original from Her receiv'd.

THE first Fruits of my Pen (My Dear) are at thy Feet, *The History of the Amours of King*

A HEN-

HENRY *the Fourth*, (Surnam'd *the Great*) of *France*, as in an *Engliſh dreſs*, (ſo far they being properly and genuinely my own) and I hope not unfaithfully render'd from their native French, wherein it is pitty (tho ſo Elegant a Language) that the Beauties they contain ſhould have ſo long lain hid; (from ſuch at leaſt who are unſeen in that Tongue.) Whether now I have perform'd with an equivalent ſucceſs, and made my Author ſpeak *Engliſh* with the ſame advantage as he doth his *French*, I muſt leave Thee and my

my Readers to judge. I know, I have endeavour'd to do him Juſtice, and ſo to Copy from the fair Original, as not to leave ſo much as one good Lineament behind; and if I have fail'd in this Attempt, I ſhall yet have this honour, to fall a Sacrifice to Thy Self, and the better Sex, (for whom the following Leaves are principally intended) and it ſhall be my Boaſt that I am ſuch a Sacrifice. But may Thy Self and thoſe Created Deities, but ſmile upon this firſt Eſſay, and the Encouragement may pro-

duce some better Services from Thine and Theirs eternally obsequious.

E. S.

The

The Author's Addreſs to the Reader.

READER, 'tis not the Epidemick itch,
That oft ſo many does bewitch,
That odd fantaſtick ſtrange Diſeaſe,
That makes men luſt ſo much for Praiſe;
No ſuch Capricio prompt me on
To undertake what here is done.
Let then the Learn'd conteſt the Bays,
Whilſt I ſubmit to the free commodity of Wit,
Was ne're Monopolized yet,
Unvail'd th'enſuing Hiſt'ry lies,
Seeking alone the ambition'd Prize,
The bleſſing of the Ladies Eyes;
Before whoſe Altars 'tis a Sacrifice.

THE

A l'Autheur sur son Ingeniuse Traduction Epigramme.

AUtantque dureront les Intrigues d'Amour,
Tandisque sur des Cœurs Cupid aura l'Empire,
Les Hommes si long temps, & les Dames de Cour,
Cette Traduction prendront plaisir à lire.
Elle est douce, elle est mâle, elle est pleine d'attraits,
certainement elle est fidelle;
Si le François est bon, meilleur en est l'Anglois,
Si l'Autheur ne paroist, c'est, qu'il vole fort haut
Parmy les Traducteurs il vole, comme l'Aigle
Au dessus des autres oyseaux
Lors qu'elle prend l'Essort, & vole à tire d'ailes

P. B.

To

To the Author on his Ingenious Translation.

As the skill'd Gard'ner *doth, by kind remove*
The growth and beauty of rich Plants im-
(prove
With no less mystick skill, kind Sir, you here
Transplant, and better from the Gallick *Air;*
Lo here an instance, of its choicest Fruit,
Whilst richer Juices feed th'impov'rish'd Root:
'Twould please (methinks) Great HENRY's
(Shade to see
This Noble Task so well perform'd by thee.
Smiling, the Story of his Loves *he'd read,*
And bless the Hand that rais'd him from the
(Dead;
That Hand that gives him hopes to live as long.
*And great in'th'*English *as the* Gallick *Tongue.*
France *then no more thy nobler Climate boast,*
Since we perform as well, and with less cost:
The naked Matter, true, we do receive,
Yet Life and Spirit to that Matter give,
Th'im-

To the Author.

Th' unpolish'd Lump invests it self anew,
Casts off its old, and takes a nobler Hue.
Ev'n as the Snake *its tatter'd skin lays by,*
And through that means grows fairer to the eye.
Since then, Dear Sir, here in few vacant hours,
With such success you can Transplant these Flowers,
Let some fresh Subject flow from your soft Pen.
Charm the fair Sex, and gain the praise of Men.

B. C.

THE AMOURS OF King *HENRY* the Fourth, &c.

KIng *Henry* the Great arriving in his turn to his Succeſſion, in the Kingdom of his Anceſtors; found no little difficulty in putting himſelf into Poſſeſſion, for as much as he was of the new Religion, and for the Rancounters which he upon that account met with from many of the Greateſt of his Subjects, that would not acknowledge him, (the moſt part alſo of the principal Cities and wall'd Towns holding of their Party) it behoved him in good earneſt to labour for ſo brave, and honourable an intereſt.

The firſt Arms that he took up was

Normandy: But that which there pass
(both at *Arques* and at *Diepe*) being Re
corded by most Historians of th
Times, I shall here prætermit, and con
tent my self with the Relation only o
what I have both learnt and seen i
his Court.

In the time of the Royal *Henry* th
Third, there was a Countess i
Guienne, of whom he was very
much enamour'd, the Countess o
Guise, who appear'd to be the sol
and unrival'd Monarch of his Will
those being the only Favorites whom
he recommended, and amongst the re
the Marquels of *Parabere*, whose Siste
was at that time with this Lady. Bu
he meets another Lady in his passage to
wards the Frontiers of *Normandy*
to whose new Conquest the fir
must resign. * A Widow young
and of so amiable an appearanc
in the Eyes of this Great Prince, tha

* Widow of *Philibert* Earl of *Gramont*, who dy
at the Siege of *La Fere*, in the Year, 1580.

with ease he forgot her to whom he had made so many contrary Protestations. And in truth, she had those Charms that were not to be found in the first. Both being of equal Quality, and the * Marchioness of *Guercheville* (such was the Name of the latter) being Educated in the fairest and best govern'd Court of those times, that I mean of the deceased King *Henry* the Third, a Prince, than whom none knew better to play the King and rule his Honours, and all things that belong'd to Majesty.

To her therefore this new Captive Prince gave himself wholly up; and in such sort forgot the Countess of *Guise*, as that nothing remain'd of her in his memory but her very Name. And the Marquess of *Parabere*, who had been the Confident of that Amour, could do no less than tell him, that

* The Marchioness of *Guercheville* was Anthoinette of *Pons*, first Wife to *Henry* of *Silly* Earl of *Rochefguion*; and second to *Charles du Plessis*, Lord of *Lyancourt*, first Esquire of *France*, and Governour of *Paris*.

he ought at least to conserve a Friendship that he had all his Life-time profess'd. Tho transported by his new Amour no other thoughts could possess him, but those of motioning a Marriage to the Marchioness of *Guercheville*, whom he knew would not harken to him upon any other terms.

His Love-affair being in this posture, he advances towards his Enemies, whom the main concern, the prosecution of his Imperial Right, which so unjustly they would extort from him, doth necessitate him to attend; and is by so many good Successes encourag'd, that he undertakes the Siege of *Paris*. *Sed cedant iterum arma Cupidini*, But Love, an unseasonable God, must revel again, though in the midst of Arms; A young and Beautiful * Abess of *Montmartre* of the House of *Clairemont*, strikes him at this siege, and so infatuates the Royal Lover, that the Siege being yet dubious, he takes

* The Abess of *Montmartre* was called, *Marie* of *Beauvilliers*, Daughter to the Earl of St. *Aignan*.

her

her away from *Montmartre*, and causing her to be conducted to *Senlis* (a Town under his Obedience,) she reigns the Mistress of his heart for some little time.

In the mean time, the Marchioness of *Guercheville*, that his Honour may not be too much blotted by her desertion) is to be some Eminent * Lords of his Court, and the King Mediates the Match, soliciting her as much now, in favour of her new Lover, as before he had done of himself. Hitherto therefore yielding a modest Ear to the King, she is perswaded to the Match; receiving the Royal Testimony (as shall afterwards be related) that she continued still in his Favour. After the accomplishment of this design, the King taking his rounds to confirm and establish his Authority, comes in the end to *Mantes*, whither the Ladies having resorted, had made some figure of a Court, so fair a concourse of Beau-

* The Lord of his Court is Monsieur de *Lyancourt* before-mentioned.

ties, and particularly those of Quality whose Brothers and Husbands he knew and who had been so much at his Service, gave no small pleasure to the King. The rest, who in his younger age he had known in the Courts of his Predecessors, he treated likewise with all Civility, and receiv'd from them no less than an answerable respect.

Some time before his arrival to this place, the Duke of *Bellgard* (an old Favourite of the deceased King *Henry's*) had Characteris'd to him the Beauty of a young Lady (a proper Entertainment for so amorous a Prince) with whom he was very much inamour'd, and as she was to admiration Fair, so he could not forbear to Commend her; She was not at that time at *Mantes*, and the Relation of the Duke of *Bellgard* had excited in the King a Curiosity to see her; but his Affairs would not suffer him for this time, though soon after when he departed thence for *Senlis*, he obtain'd the desire he had of seeing Madam *D'Estree* (such was the Name of

of *Bellgard's* Miſtreſs) and at *Senlis* entertains her with all the poſſible Gallantries, that his time would give him leave to perform; which done, and departing from thence, after the ſeeing of many other places, he returns to *Mantes*, where the unfortunate *Bellgard* asking his leave to go ſee his Miſtreſs, too late diſcovers that his own Tongue had betray'd him to the loſs of her, and that the King had been too much taken with the ſight of her at *Senlis*; thus prov'd the poor Lover the Author of his own misfortune; and indeed we are all too often more obnoxious to hurt from our ſelves than others. By this view doth he looſe not only the permiſſion of ſeeing of his Miſtreſs, but hazard the Friendſhip of his Maſter and the good hour of his Fortune.

Some time before, he had ſtay'd long at *Mantes*, and had been extreamly ill; the Ladies that was there, rendring Him all the conrteſie and aſſiſtance that they could, and amongſt the

the reſt the young and beautious Madam *de Humieres*, who was reſolv'd to approve herſelf to him by her Services, not only for the reputation that he had of being one of the greateſt Gallants of the Age, but alſo for that particular eſteem ſhe had for his Perſon. This accident gave a fair opportunity to expreſs her reſpects to the fair Madam *d' Humieres*, and to the afflicted Duke to receive them, who was ſo happy as by this to find an occaſion, which he might otherways have long ſought for and in vain. But not ſo great are the Lover's long, for *Bellgard* upon a viſit to the* Lord of *Eſtree*, falls paſſionately in Love with his fair Daughter the aforeſaid Madam *d' Eſtree*; Who tho at firſt ſhe with ſome reluctancy received, (Loving and being belov'd of the Admiral *d'Villars*, a perſon, moſt amiable and deſerving,) yet was ſhe not

* The Lord of *Eſtree* was *John Antonie* of *Eſtree*, Marqueſs of *Cœuvres* who had Married *Franceſs Babou*, of *du Bourdaiſſere*,

long

long cruel; being also passionately in Love with her new Lover, to whom the Admiral (seeing clearly what was most for her interest) offers a thousand reproaches, which serv'd only to advance his Rival in his Affairs, and so began to neglect her, that instead of reclaiming her from her other Lover, he threw her into an utter despondency of his Affection.

It was now that the King became inamour'd of Madam *d'Estree* the Mistress of *Bellgard*, tho through the importancy of his Affairs inevitably diverting him another way, he could see her but once [illegible] Voiage; however in his Heart [illegible]ars [illegible] kindled Fires, and is of nothing more thoughtful during the Voiage than of her, which is long enough.

In the mean time the * Duke of *Langueville* (no more proof against the Ar-

* The Duke of *Languille* was *Henry* of *Orleans*, who afterwards Married *Catherine* of *Gonzakes*, Daughter of the Duke of *Nevers*,

rows

rows of the blind God than her other Lovers,) at *Mantes* commenceth Captive to the All-conquering Madam *d'Estrees*, a Lady so universally effectual by her Charms upon all that beheld her, that to love and look upon her, was only Synonimous Terms, or terms expressive of the self same thing.

This Prince had before lov'd Madam *d'Humieres*, the late beautious Subject of our Pen, who having lost her first Lover, had now imbarq'd herself a fresh. And indeed so little constant was he always to his choice, that he lov'd [redacted] present best, whilst Madam *d'Humieres* on the other side, who thought it too insufferable a detraction from her Excellences to be without an admirer, had likewise furnish'd herself afresh.

This intreague continu'd during the Voiage of the King; but he resents it so strongly at his return, that he becomes most furiously jealous, insomuch that he began to remit of his favour

to

to *Bellgard*, giving him to understand that he would no more of a Companion in his Amours, than in that of his Kingdome, and that his passion was dearer to him than any thing else. *Bellgard* was troubled at this Language and more especially at the tone and action with which it was delivered, and promised the King all he desired; whilst Madamoisell *d'Estree*, who lov'd not the King, and had bestow'd all her Affections upon another, was so inveterately imag'd, that she protested she could not love him, and ceast not to reproach him with the hindrance of her Marriage to the Duke of *Bellgard* that made his Court to that end, and immediatly departed *Mantes*, and retir'd herself to her Fathers House.

The King, to whom his Enemies never gave any astonishment, conceiv'd so great an impression from this Action of his Mistress, that he knew not what to resolve upon. Sometimes he fancy's with himself that seeing her the

next

next day might reduce her to her former clemency. But this pleas'd him not in Company, and to go alone was matter of the extreamist hazard, Wa being of all sides of him, and two Garrisons of his Enemies in his way which must lie through the great and wast Forrest; so that he could not de vise with himself what Counsel to take but his passion surmounting all, causeth him notwithstanding, to undertake th Journey; four Leagues of which h rides on Horseback, accompany'd by five of the most Trusty of his Ser vants; And being come within thre leagues of the Ladies House, he A sumes the habit of a Peasant, puts sack of Chaff upon his Back, an goes thither on foot, (having in telligence it seems the day before where he should see her) and find her in a Gallery, with only her Siste with her, who was espous'd to th Marques of *Villar's*.

Sh

She was so surpriz'd to find the King * in such an Equipage, and so ill satisfied with a Change that appear'd so ridiculous in him, that she gave him but an ill Reception, yet thus rather for the Cloaths that he had on than for himself, and staid but just long enough with him to let him know that they misbecom'd him so much she could not look upon him, and so left him.

Her Sister more civil, excuseth her coldness, and perswaded him that it was the fear only of her Father that caus'd her to retire, and did all that she could to qualifie such a discontentment; which indeed was a thing not difficult for her to do, he being a Prince so effectually captivated that nothing could loose him from his chains. Now

* Madam. of *Estreé*, the Person meant by She, was so surpris'd, &c. was Sister to *Hippolite Julietta* of *Estreé* Daughter to the Lord of *Estreé*, and Wife he says to the Marquess of *Villars* or *Cerisay* being styled as well one as the other, and afterwards one of the King's Mistresses upon the decease of her Sister.

as this Voiage was not only perilous, but to very little purpoſe, ſo it put the people into an equal aſtoniſhment to think what ſhould become of the King.

He reduceth them to their former Temper at his return, and to the end, that he might no more be rack'd by ſo ungrateful a thing as a diſappointment in this caſe, he invents this ſtratagem to remove the cauſe; the Father of this Lady to whom the hinted abſence was imputed under colour therefore of his ſervice, (the old Gentleman being under ſome Provincial Truſt,) he cauſeth him to come and live at *Mantes*, (not a little pleas'd with the happy acqueſt of his deſire,) the means of ſeeing his Miſtreſs as often as he ſhould have thought fit, if the neceſſity of his occaſions had not determin'd him another way.

In the interim, we muſt not paſs over the adventure of the * Marqueſs

* The Marqueſs of *Humieres* was *Giles* of *Conflans Humieres* Son to the Earl of *Auchy*.

d'Hu-

d'*Humieres*, who at the Age of two and twenty years defended the Town of *Senlis*, during the rigour of a great Siege, running the very utmoſt hazard of his life, and ſuſteining two ſuch great Aſſaults, that it was contrary to the opinion of all thoſe that was with him in the Garriſon and even of the Governour himſelf; not yeilding the leaſt to Capitulate, but bravely and ſtoutly maintaining it, till ſuch time as he gave oppertunity to the King's Servants to relieve the place, who haſten'd in their relief as ſoon as poſſible, the chiefeſt being related to the Marqueſs, not inſenſible of his danger and unwilling he ſhould be loſt where he alſo gain'd a * moſt memorable Battle, and much advanced the Affairs of the King on that ſide the River *Loire*.

This young Warrier in ſo green an Age, had rendred a thouſand Proofs

* The Battle fought at *Senlis*, in the month of *May*, 1589.

of his Vallour, and had thought of nothing hitherto but his Honour. But after this ſo brave and Maſculine an Action, having not only rais'd the Siege and diſcomfited the Enemy, but alſo tray'd in the greateſt part of their Cannon into the Town, and nail'd down the reſt, he begins to bethink himſelf of ſome diverſion. And at *Mantes*, whether he went for that purpoſe, the Hero that before had ſmil'd at the reports of Cannon, and fruſtrated the improſperous aims of his adverſaries at *Senlis* Siege, is by the reſiſtleſs powers of Love and Beauty wounded and incaptiv'd; the fair Object was Madam *d'Simie*, whom ſeeing there he fell moſt paſſionately in Love with. This Lady beſides her beauty, was ſo agreeable, and had ſo many Charms, that ſhe put him into ſuch a condition that he had neither Eyes nor Thoughts but what was hers; this continued wholly unperceiv'd for ſome time, and the Husband of this Lady

Lady was the laſt of thoſe that diſcover'd it, the Husband I mean of Madam *d'Simie*.

But no ſooner came it to his knowledg, but all over enrag'd, and in a jealous and brutiſh fury he conveys her away to a Caſtle more fit for Lions than for her, yet notwithſtanding is careful neither to ſay nor do any thing that might enrage the Marqueſs *d' Humieres*, having no deſire to grapple with ſo rude and potent an Enimy; but during this Treatment of the Lady, the Marqueſs however contrives with himſelf to releive her, and to apply a remedy, with which the preſent ſtate of Affairs doth furniſh him; indeed he did not eſteem it the beſt, yet it was ſuch as ſerv'd at the leaſt to the main purpoſe, to redeem his Miſtreſs from her Priſon.

Now the King being return'd back from his Voiage to *Mantes*, Beſieges and takes the Town of *Diepe*, committing the Government of it to *Simie* who

retir'd thither with his Wife. This fair and commodious place miniſters an oppertunity to the Marqueſs *d'Humieres*, of having ſome intelligence of his Miſtreſs, who us'd all imaginable means to continue his amour. To this purpoſe therefore ho cauſeth a Chriſtning to be made, to which Madam *d'Simie* and her Husband are invited; who could not fail to come ſince they were perſons of ſuch Quality that invited them, and their Company likewiſe ſo much ſolicited by their own Relations, but the Marqueſs *d' Humiere* and Madam *d'Simie* could not here be diſcreet enough, perhaps through a little too much rapture with the interview, to prevent the Jealouſie of her Husband from breaking out, and almoſt expreſſing it ſelf in the horrid Murther of his own Wife, whom he brings back to his own Habitation, takes away all her Servants and claps her up cloſe in a Chamber.

D'Humieres, inform'd of this ill uſage,

uſage, ſought all poſſible means to redreſs it, but could not openly attempt it, leaſt it might juſtifie the conceived jealouſies of *Simie*, who would certainly upon this have kill'd his Wife. The next recourſe therefore that he made, was the ſeeking ſome occaſion to die, to which end he thoughtfully retires himſelf to one of his * Caſtles, where all the Nobility and Gentry coming to viſit him, and obſerving ſo many of them together, he propoſeth an Adventure of Storming an adjacent Caſtle of the Enemies in open day; which Motion, though all at the firſt reſiſted, (ſuch an Enterprize appearing to be too hazardous in the day-time,) yet in fine, overcome by his perſwaſions, they unanimouſly conſent, taking therefore along with him ſome of his Infantry, he comes at ſo lucky an hour to the Caſtle, that applying his Petards he blew open one of the Gates,

* The Caſtle of *Ham* in *Piccardy*.

the

the Guards of the Caſtle being then gone off; but the Inhabitants recovering, let fly a Volley of Muſquets, and ſo ruffly ſaluted the head of this young Generous Warrier, that at once it put an end to his growing Lawrels and his Love; having ſcarce yet attain'd the Age of 22 Years. When the King heard this, he infinitely reſented it, not only for thoſe Services which he had already receiv'd from him, but alſo for thoſe which he might very probably have expected from ſo much Vertue if he had liv'd. And I think I am oblig'd to give him the Character, of being one of the generouſeſt of Men, and one of the Valianteſt perhaps of the Age.

Madam *d'Simie*, bore this Death very impatiently for a little while, but no ſooner did ſhe ſomething recover her ſelf, but ſhe ſolaceth with the thoughts of a new Amour. Thus far Madam *d'Humieres* and her Lover.

During

During all this interval, Madam *d'Eſtree* continues her Affection to the Duke of *Bellgard*, notwithſtanding her Amour with the King. And likewiſe gives incouragement to the Duke of *Longueville*, both writing to him and receiving Letters from him; But *Bellgard* reſolves to deſiſt, and not hazard his Good grace with the King, for the loſs of a Miſtreſs which he might ſo eaſily regain. And *Longueville* too, ſeeing his Prince return, Entreats back the Letters ſhe had receiv'd from him, promiſing to do her the ſame Juſtice without diſcontinuing of his Affection to her. In brief, he manag'd the buſineſs ſo well, that the time and place are appointed this action, but in Contradiction to to his Promiſe, deceives her of the moſt Important part of what he had receiv'd from her, thinking to Influence her by this politick Reſerve, and to aw and oblige her to his Will. But ſo mortally provoked is Madam

d'Eſtree

d'Eſtree with this Gullery, that in the end it coſt no leſs than the Life of this Prince.

For ceaſing not from this time to render him all the ill offices to the King; and the Duke not induring the Diſpleaſure which he receiv'd from the King upon it, becomes a Party againſt him, and at his entrance into the Town of *Daurlens*, finiſhed his Life by the receit of a Muſquet ſhot upon his Head. People generally believing that Madam *d'Eſtree* had now obtain'd her deſire in his diſpatch. Thus ended the Duke of *Longueville* for having been too politick.

In the mean time the Lord of *Eſtree*, the Father of this Lady, much troubled to ſee the Royal Amour each minute ſo much advancing, was willing to rid himſelf of this Tyranny. The moſt probable and equitable expedient for which, ſeem'd to be to

Marry

Marry her; And a * Perſon of Qua-
ity in the Country offering himſelf
o this end, of an Eſtate not incom-
etent for the allyance, (though of
Body as much deform'd as his Mind)
Madam [illegible] conſents, yet Swares
he King [illegible]ly to be preſent at the
ay of her Nuptials, but that he
ould ſo emphatically conveigh her
way thence from the ſight of
er Husband, that ſhe ſhould never
e him again, or at leaſt, not other-
viſe than by the King's permiſſion,
erſwading him that ſhe could never
onſent to any that ſhould make her
nfaithful to him.

But the Day paſſing, and the King
ot being there, (who was now ingag'd
an enterpriſe of importance,) ſhe
ears a hundred Oaths to be reveng'd
the King, and yet that ſhe would
ot lye with her Husband who think-

* *Nicholas Damerval*, Lord of *Lyancourt*, which
ear to *Neſleen* in *Piccardy*.

ing

ing his Authority over her, would be greater in his own House than in the Town he Married her in, over which the Lord of *Estree* was Governour carries her away thither, who notwithstanding caused herself to be so well accompany'd by the Ladies her Kinswomen that were at the Wedding that he durst not attempt any thing upon her, but what was pleasing; and the King arriving in the interim at the next Town, commands back his Mistress who was thus conducted at least upon some hopes of advantage by it at the Court. And conveys her away with him, Accompany'd by her Cosen and her Sister, presently going on to Attaque the Town of *Carthens*, which Siege held so long that it gave time enough to an * Aunt of Madammoiselle *d'Estree* to bestow a Visit upon her Neice, a subtle and discreet Woman by whom she was so well instructed

* *Isabelle Babou* Wife to the Marquess of *Sourdis* *Franciss* of *Escoubleau*.

tha

that she wholly submitted the Royal Captive to her Devotion. And the Marquess of Sourdre, her Uncle was Created Governour of this Town as soon as taken by the King.

The King thus in Love with Madam *d'Estree*, is now essaying to disanul his Marriage with the * Queen of *Navarr*, a Princess not only of Extraction from, but Sister to a King, yet alas! to Crown whose other Vertues the valuable one of the Chaste *Lucretia*, was too much wanting, for which they had been long since separated, and the Royal Sinner betaken her self to one of her * Castles; a place not only by its Fortifications render'd Impregnable, but also by the advantages of its situation upon a high Mountain, and in a very cragged

* The Queen of *Navarr* is *Marguerite* of *Valois* of *France*, Sister to *Henry* the Third, first Wife to *Henry* the Fourth.

* The Queens Castle, was that of *Usson* in *Auvergne*.

Country. This Queen gave out that she was willing to comply with the King upon Terms, upon which they had agreed had not this new Amour not only interrupted the Treaty, but put an utter barr to any farther proceeding in it; the King fearing least the dissolution of this Marriage once effected, those of his Servants that affected him, might be urgent with him to Marry again, which he could by no means endure; Being one that neither could nor would love any thing but his Mistress, whom this would have much offended, her self being (as before was intimated) contracted.

During this, was depending the Match between * *Catherine d'Bourbon* the King's Sister and the Count of *Soisons*, to whom the King had propos'd her, but changing his mind, he

* *Catherine d'Bourbon*, the King's Sister, was Wife to *Henry* of *Lorrain* Duke of *Barr*, who dy'd at *Nancy* in the Year 1604.

resolves

reſolves to beſtow her upon * the Duke of *Monpenſier*, a Prince though young, yet in truth far ſubmitting to the other in point of Amiableneſs, and ſo very diſagreeable to the Humour and Fancy of the Princeſs, that ſhe could not forbare upon the ſight of him, to let him audibly underſtand, that ſhe could not love him; the Duke is not diſcourag'd with this, but perceiving the King of his ſide, ceaſeth not to render her all the Endearments that he could; and on the other ſide, the * Duke of *Soiſons* offended at this Suit, in which his Rival was Patroniz'd and encourag'd by the King, withdraws himſelf to his Houſe.

In the interim came Madam *d'Bourbon* to the Town of *Diepe*, wherein ſhe finds Madam *d'Gabrielle*, (who is the late Madam *d'Eſtree*, thus ſtyl'd

* The Duke of *Montpenſier* and the Earl of *Soiſons* both of the Family of the *Bourbons*, Princes of the Blood.

after her Marriage,) and confeſſeth ſhe Eſteems her for the greatneſs of her Beauty not to be unworthy the Affection of her Brother; a thing for which ſhe had ſo much deteſted her before, and envy'd her, that if ſhe beheld her with a pleaſant look, it was with a viſible force put upon her ſelf. And Madam *d'Gabrielle* on the other ſide, not being able to diſpence with ſo inſufferable a Grandure in the Princeſs to whom ſhe muſt always bare ſo profound a deference, often reproach'd the King with her coming. Whoſe only remedy was to be moving, (as his Affairs frequently call'd upon him to do) to another place, and to carry his Miſtreſs along with him; who now began in good earneſt to intereſt her ſelf in all Affairs; which indeed was not difficult for her to do, by the fore-mentioned Inſtrument her Aunt, with whom the Chancellour * *Chi-*

* The Chancellour *Chiverney*, is *Philip Huraud* Earl of *Chiverney*.

verney

verney is in Love. See hence the efficacy of ſo Great a Maſters example! how ſtrange is it that ſo Sage and Eminent a Man as this, ſhould not be able to reſiſt his Paſſion! but ſo it is, and the King willing that all the World ſhould be as much in Love as himſelf, was glad to ſee him fetter'd in the common Lott. At this time dy'd very Tragycally Madam *d'Eſtree*, Mother to Madam *d'Gabrielle*, who as ſhe had Infamouſly lived, ſo was ſhe juſtly inflicted with ſuch a Puniſhment.

Still continu'd the Love betwixt *Bellgard* and Madam *d'Gabrielle*; of which the King had ſome ſuſpicion; but ſo ſlight as yet, that the leaſt ſhew of Kindneſs from her, made him condemn it as Criminal. But there happened an Accident, had like to have made it much more viſible. For being at one of his Houſes, in order to a certain Enterprize on that ſide, and being gone the ſpace of three or four

leagues to that effect, Madam *d'Gabrielle* ſtays by the way, pretending that ſhe was ill, whilſt *Bellgard* counterfeited a Journey to *Mantes*, which was not far off. But no ſooner was the King gone, but *Arphure*, the chief Confident amongſt the Women of Madam *d'Gabrielle*, (being one that ſhe intruſted upon all occaſions) gave entrance to *Bellgard* into a little Cloſet of which ſhe only had the Key, who had alſo admittance into the Chamber, as ſoon as her Miſtreſs had diſpos'd it into that order as ſhe thought fit. As they were together, came back the King, who though he could not find what he had ſought for, had like now to have found what he did not ſeek; All that could be done to prevent it, was to ſhut up *Bellgard* in the Cloſet of *Arphure*, which was at the Beds-head of Madam *d'Gabrielle*, a Window from which lookt into the Garden; no ſooner did the King come in (having poſſibly ſome

item

item giv'n him of this buſineſs) but he call'd for *Arphure* for ſome of thoſe Sweetmeats, that ſhe kept in this Cloſet. But was anſwered by Madam *d'Gabrielle*, that ſhe was not at home, and that ſhe had given her leave to go ſee ſome Relations of hers that was in the Town; notwithſtanding the King ſtill inſiſted that he reſolv'd to eat ſome of them, and that if *Arphure* was not to be found, or ſome other Perſon to open it, he would break open the Door, and forthwith ſtrikes it with his Feet. The ſurprize ſure is inexpreſſible theſe two Lovers muſt be in, to find themſelves ſo near a diſcovery! But Madam *d'Gabrielle*, if poſſible, will prevent it, and therefore feigns ſo great an illneſs in her Head, that noiſe would very much diſturb her, which yet doth not at all diſſwade the King from his reſolution. And *Bellgard* ſeeing there was no other remedy, leaps out of the Window into the Garden, from whence

though

though it was very high, he had the fortune to do himſelf little hurt by the fall.

Now *Arphure* (who had only hid her ſelf that ſhe might not open the Door) came in very hot (as if upon ſome haſty Summons ſhe had poſted from her Friends out of the Town, whom Madam *Gabrielle* had pretended ſhe had given her leave to go ſee) and ſatisfies the King with what he with ſo much impatiency demanded. Upon which *Bellgard*, (as before was hinted) having ſo fortunately made his eſcape, and the intreague being undiſcovered, the ſubtile *Gabrielle* a thouſand times reproaches the King with the unkindneſs of his action which ſhe tells him, ſhe believes was only to find ſome plauſible occaſion to break with her, as (his Humour changing,) he had done with thoſe that he had loved before, but that ſhe would prevent him by returning again to her Husband, whom his Authority

thority had caus'd her to abandon. I confeſs (ſaith ſhe) through that extream Paſſion which for you, I have entertain'd, I have forgot both my Honour and my Duty, whilſt you have repaid me with moſt innumerable Inconſtancies under colour of Suſpicion, for which I have not given you grown'd for ſo much as a Thought; and with this the Tears flow'd down her Cheeks. Upon which, ſo great was the diſorder of the Royal Lover, that he begg'd her Pardon not only for what he had done, but the falſe deluding Paſſion alſo prov'd ſo much the cure of his Jealouſie, that it was long before he entertain'd it again.

During all this, the Enemies of the King was in poſſeſſion of the Town of *Paris*; In which ſo great and numerous was the Quality, that they compoſed a Court in which ſeveral things paſſed that are worthy of our notice.

The

The * Dutcheſs of *Montpenſier* a Widow to one of the Princes of the Blood, and Siſter to the Duke of *Mayen* (Chief of that party which held the firſt rank againſt the King) omitted nothing that might tend to the advancement of the affairs of her Brother, or rather of his eldeſt Son (her Nephew) of the ſame Party, of whom ſhe had a very good opinion. This Lady loved a Gentleman of the King's Party, that was really as well, as in Repute, a gallant Man; yet ſhewing him all the kindneſs that the beſt aſſurance (with any reſerve of Modeſty) could admit of, ſtill he could not return it, having a Paſſion for her Neice (the Daughter of her eldeſt Brother) * Madamoiſelle *d'Guiſe*, a Lady under the

* The Dutcheſs of *Montpenſier*, was *Catherine* of *Lorrain*, Daughter to *Francis* of *Lorrain* the Duke of *Guiſe* (and *Ann d'Eſt* his Wife) Father to *Charles d'Lorrain*, Duke of *Mayenne*.

* Madamoiſelle *d'Guiſe*, was *Louyſe Marguerite* of *Lorrain*, Daughter to the aforeſaid *Henry d'Lorrain*, and *Catherine* of *Cleves*.

Cha-

Character of one of the Handſomeſt of thoſe times. But being one to whom the King (as in the entrance of this Hiſtory is ſignifi'd) had given ſome hopes of Marriage as ſoon as he ſhould be free, out of a proſpect of thus preferring her ſelf to the Royal Bed, ſhe contemn'd all her other Lovers. Amongſt whom * *Guiry* (ſuch was the afore-nam'd Gentleman) was the firſt that perceiv'd it. For having done all that he could think of to oblige her, even ſo far as to ſupply them with Proviſions in *Paris*, in the time of its greateſt neceſſities; he receiv'd from her ſo angry and apparently diſdainful a look, as gave an utter ſtop to his any-farther vanity in aſpiring.

Indeed all the more brisk Gentlemen in the Army of the part of the Duke of *Bayen*, as well as the King's, had no

* Lord of *Guiry*, who afterwards Married *Marguerette Hurault* Daughter to the Chancellour *d'Chiney*.

leſs

less than a Passion for this Lady. For though her Mother and her self had, as they thought, withdrawn themselves to a very private recess, yet so great a confluence of Admirers was there even to this place (through the attraction of this Beauty) that it might properly enough be styl'd the Court of that Party; yet after all, not so much was her Beauty, but her Envy was more at her Competitor Madam *d'Gabrielle*, not only because she really exceeded her in Beauty, but also in that her far more envy'd happiness, her favour with the King; and therefore sought all possible means to be reveng'd upon her.

Now when the King (as before hinted, had laid such close siege to *Paris*, where Assaults were often made on both sides, with such frequent interchanges of Sallies and Repulses, Madam *d'Guise* appeared sometimes on the Walls. At such times it was the subtle *Guiry* always took his occasions to insinua-

insinuate something or other that should signifie his Passion, though she as often with an assumed state, especially at this time, appeared not to understand him, the King having now sent for her Picture, (who was not yet so wholly embarqu'd in Madam *d'Estree*,) and it was likewise believ'd that the Peace, and this Match would have been concluded together. So that (flush'd with these hopes) she not only despis'd *Guiry*, but all her other Lovers.

Excepting the happy *Bellgard*, for a Truce being made upon some Occasion for six hours, and the Ladies diverting themselves upon the Ramperts to which the Gentlemen of the Army came up to confer with their Acquaintance, and more particularly to contemplate the famed Beauties of Madam *d'Gutse*, and *Bellgard* amongst the rest: The scornful Dame that before had made profession of defying all the World, per-

ceiv'd upon the ſight of this Chevalier, that ſhe could love ſomething elſe beſides a King. And *Bellgard* himſelf was ſo much enſnar'd and raviſh'd by her Charmes, that he forgot Madam *d'Eſtree*, and all the ſacred Oaths he had made of loving nothing but her, and wholly devoted himſelf to the preſent Object; and from that time forth, they began to love one another. How ſtrange are the effects of reſiſtleſs Paſſions? *Bellgard* being (as it is ſaid) only come hither to juſtifie himſelf to Madam-moiſelle and the Dutcheſs, concerning the imputation he was under of being guilty of the death of the Duke of *Guiſe*, (which the Dutcheſs had believ'd him to have a ſhare in, and had vow'd him revenge for) the Mother falls in love with him, and he with the Daughter, who was not wholly obdurate to him, yet both kept their Fires ſecret enough, the one that ſhe might not give cauſe of ſuſpicion

picion to her Mother; and the other that he might not offend Madam *d'Gabrielle*, who was too much the present prop and buttress of his Fortune, for him to be willing to lose. All that he could do in this little time, was by his Friends, to inform and satisfie the Dutchess of his innocence in this Case; whose justification was so well receiv'd, that it convinc'd the Dutchess (who could not but believe those his execrable Imprecations he made upon himself) and caus'd her to relinquish her former Opinion; and to command Madamoiselle *d'Guise* no more to accuse him, who was not difficult to be perswaded so to do; because, supposing him to be Guilty, yet not being now free to condemn him, she thought it more suitable to her present Circumstances to be credulous. *Heu! Quid non possis amor?* Omnipotent Love! What is it thou canst not do, even to the

justifying of the greatest Crimes?

Every one return'd after the Truce was expir'd, and *Bellgard*, amongst the rest, toss'd with ten thousand various Cogitations; he could not nor would not quit Madam *d'Gabrielle*, and his new Passion gave him a most resistless Inquietude. In fine, he resolves to love them both; to conserve the one and not to relinquish the other, and from this time seeks out means to please the Dutchess of *Guise*, who receiv'd his Letters and Messages so well, that there was soon a fair Intelligence betwixt them.

At this time came the young Duke of *Guise* out of Prison, in which he had been ever since the death of his Father; and *Bellgard* knowing him, takes an occasion to send a Trumpet to visit him, with Letters for the Dutchess; who was cunning enough privately to conveigh as much into the hands of the young Princess.

His

His Letters was receiv'd by the Dutcheſs her ſelf very well; and the Princeſs, though ſhe had not an opportunity of ſpeaking to him now, yet intimated by Signs, that any thing of this nature was not Ungrateful to her from this Knight; with which the expecting *Bellgard* was not a little pleas'd.

In the mean time the War continu'd, and the Dutcheſs of *Guiſe* deſirous of a Paſs-port to one of her Houſes, the King not only grants it, but likewiſe that ſhe may paſs through the ſame place where he himſelf was with all his Court; where the young Lady (pleas'd with this Voyage) hoped both that *Bellgard* might now find ſome means to ſpeak to her, and that ſhe might alſo have an opportunity to ſee whether the envy'd Beauty of her Rival, anſwer'd that Character that was given of it: And *Bellgard* (a Convoy for them to the Court, being

but a due Reſpect to Perſons of this Quality) takes occaſion to beg one of the King, (who was himſelf of too courteous a diſpoſition not to grant it) and of which, (by vertue of that Rank which he held in the Court) he had the Commiſſion himſelf.

Arriv'd, both the Dutcheſs and the young Princeſs, receiv'd a thouſand Careſſes from the King, of which the former, could not refrain from commending the Beauty of Madam *d'Gabrielle*, who yet thought ſhe found Madamoiſelle *d'Guiſe* too handſome for her liking, and Madamoiſelle *d'Guiſe* on the other ſide was ſurpris'd with the Beauty of her Rival; yet both concealing the opinion which they mutual had of each other, receiv'd one another with all the coldneſs that was conſiſtent with a due civility; and Madamoiſelle *d'Guiſe*, as ſoon as ſhe had ſeen Madam *d'Gabrielle*, turn'd her ſelf towards *Bellgard*, and ſaid, Truly I thought

thought ſhe had been more handſom, to which *Bellgard* anſwered nothing, being too much taken with this Lady. Now the King, who knew well all Paſſions, and likewiſe thoſe of the Dutcheſs of *Guiſe* (not unpractis'd in the affairs of Love) did not doubt but that this Chevalier, (as indeed it was true enough) only amuz'd and blinded the Dutcheſs, and us'd his pretended Addreſſes to her, only to facilitate his Acceſs to the young Princeſs, with whom he judg'd he was in Love : This Opinion had theſe two effects ; It repreſs'd the King's ſuſpicion that he had entertain'd of his being in Love with Madam *d'Gabrielle*, and caus'd him to put an end to all farther deſigns upon Madam *d'Guiſe*.

But Madam *d'Gabrielle*, who above all her little Intereſts, eſteem'd the affection of her Lover the Duke of *Bellgard*, took ſo narrow a ſcrutiny of his actions, that ſhe knew that he

he lov'd Madamoiſelle *d'Guiſe*, and that he alſo was not hated by her; at which ſhe conceiv'd ſo ſtrong a jealouſie of Madam *d'Guiſe*, that ſhe was under no ſmall pain to ſuppreſs it. With which the Princeſs (ſtill puſhing her on) was (not ill pleas'd) propoſing to her ſelf this Advantage by it, That if upon her departure from the Court, ſhe could not boaſt her ſelf of gaining any thing upon the King, yet ſhe might at leaſt triumph over his Miſtreſs.

The next day they departed, the Dutcheſs having obtain'd of the King a Neutrality for the Houſe ſhe was to go to, to which *Bellgard*, (ſo much inflam'd by the attractions of the fair Madamoiſelle *d'Guiſe*) did not a little contribute; the King making no ſcruple to grant him all that in this nature he could deſire, as a Bait to lure him from his Miſtreſs Madam *d'Gabrielle*, who was

ſo

ſo exceſſively enrag'd by her jealouſie of Madamoiſelle *d'Guiſe*, that ſhe would not ſo much as bid adieu to either the Mother or the Daughter, feigning her ſelf ill, and not ſuffering her ſelf to be ſeen all that day by any Perſon whatſoever.

Bellgard and all the Court conducted theſe Ladies on their way ſo far as that they return'd not till the next day; when the inenſed *Gabrielle* beheld her Lover with ſo much fury in her Eyes, that it began to trouble him; And ſeeing the beloved Princeſs no more, the preſent Object retook him again, to whom (inclin'd by his Intereſt, as well as by loſing the fair *Idæas* of the abſent Beauty) he reſettled himſelf, curſing his former inconſtancy and indiſcretion.

In the mean time the Dutcheſs of *Guiſe*, to whom her Life was of leſs value than her Love, and eſpecially with this Knight, contrives a means

means to continue it by inſtating her Son in a Treaty with the King, (for which ſhe might eaſily perſwade her ſelf, the Favourite *Bellgard* would not be left out of the Commiſſion) and to make way for it, ſends advice of it to the King. Who deſirous that all his Subjects might return to their Allegiance, particular a Prince that was one of the Chiefs of the Adverſe Party, and of whom he had ſo great an Opinion, diſpatch'd *Bellgard* immediately towards her.

To which Madam *d'Gabrielle* oppos'd as much as poſſible, averring that *Bellgard* was not a Man of Buſineſs, and that the Mother (intimating the Paſſion that ſhe had for *Bellgard*, and probably ſuſpecting ſome contrivance now of the Dutcheſſes in relation to it) might be more pleas'd with his Mediation than the Son; But in the end, the Duke of *Neverrs*, in kindneſs to *Bellgard*,

Bellgard, (a Perſon then amongſt the firſt of the King's Favourites) prevail'd upon her (to do pleaſure to *Bellgard*, whom he lov'd moſt extreamly) no longer to oppoſe it; And did no ſmall favour by this to the Duke of *Guiſe*; For this Treaty not quickly concluding, and *Paris* ſoon afterwards being ſurrendred into the King's hands, the Love of *Bellgard* to his Siſter was of no ſmall import, (this Surrender ſo much infeebling the Enemy.) A kindneſs he had never receiv'd, unleſs from the Benevolent hands of the Duke of *Nevers*, who did all that this Knight deſir'd, and with ſo great a zeal (and this ſeconded by the active and co-operating heat of the Duke himſelf) that he put an end to an Affair, that all the World ſtood aſtoniſh'd to ſee ſo ſoon and ſo advantagiouſly accompliſh'd.

Behold

Behold how the Affairs of this Court are carried on, and directed to such ends as was the least thought of by all, by very few known to be certainly in persuit, only there was some discourse of it indeed in the Court. The Duke upon his coming was very graciously receiv'd by the King, and likewise so well from his Sister, that he commenced Servant to her from this time.

At this time it was (the King being now gone to besiege a Town that was yet on the Party of the Duke of *Mayen*) that Madam *d'Gabrielle* was brought to Bed of a * Son; At which the King conceives so great a Joy, that he causeth her to quit her Name, and assume the Title of Marchioness of *Beaufort*. And began not to love her more because his love was before so ex-

* The Son borne by Madam *d'Gabrielle*, upon which she was made Marchioness of *Beaufort*, was afterwards the Duke *Vendosme*.

tream

tream it could receive no augmentation, but more to Eſteem her, Honour, and Reſpect her.

Seeing her ſelf in this condition, ſhe began to ſearch out all means to hinder her Marriage, and to aſſume to her ſelf higher Expectations; Her Councellour, her Aunt, Madam *d'Sourdis*, inſinuating into her, that ſhe might arrive to better Fortunes. And her Gallant the old Chancellour of *Chiverney*, gave her likewiſe uſeful Councels towards this end, which ſhe began in good earneſt to execute, making Friends for her ſupport, and eſtabliſhing, and preferring thoſe that depended upon her, and endeavouring by her Friends to perſwade the Queen to break a Marriage, from which ſhe could expect nothing but much uneaſineſs and miſtruſt; But for this time could gain nothing upon her Spirits. In the mean time there is a Reconciliation

twixt *Bellgard* and his Miſtreſs, (who had ſo ſtrong an inclination to Love him, and be Beloved of him, that ſhe help'd to deceive her ſelf even when ſhe knew he flattered her, for which cauſe he was the more induſtrious, ſeeing her now more Puiſſant than ever.

The Siſter of the King, and the Duke of *Guiſe*, hid now no more their Paſſion, and the Duke began to take ill *Bellgard*'s often Viſits to his Lodgings; (who notwithſtanding his Service for the new Marchioneſs of *Beaufort*, could not wholly relinquiſh his Amour with Madamoiſelle *d'Guiſe* his Siſter) the Duke taking notice of his frequent Viſits at his Lodgings, reſents it, and began to examine the cauſe, in ſo much that Madamoiſelle *d'Guiſe*, who feared her Brother might make ſome Rumour of it abroad; gives Advertiſement of it to *Bellgard*, who a little pauſing upon it with himſelf,

himſelf, had recourſe to the Duke of *Nevers* for Advice. The Duke informs him of the moſt proper Expedient that in his preſent Circumſtances he could uſe; which was, That ſome diſtant Service might be allotted, in order to his remove from the King, to the Duke of *Guiſe*; which (he adviſes) may be the Government of *Province*; and engageth himſelf to employ his Intereſt towards the accompliſhment of it, if it ſhould not be oppoſed by the Marchioneſs of *Beaufort*. *Bellgard* therefore (aſſured of his Friend) ſpeaketh of it to her, taking occaſion from the Affection ſhe bore to this Prince, to tell her it was now ſo publickly known, that it was even come to the King's Ear, to which it gave ſuch offence, that in her own Juſtification ſhe ought at leaſt to ſollicite his remove to ſome diſtant Service, which his Courage

rendred him ſo capable of for the King, and propos'd the Government of *Province*. In ſhort, he manag'd his Buſineſs with ſo good a Conduct, that the Duke of *Guiſe* was ſoon diſpatch'd for *Province*. But for what happen'd there, I muſt refer you to the Hiſtorians.

The King's Siſter infeſted with this Accident, recurrs to another Object the Duke of *Eſpernon*, a Man brave, though in his Age, and had acquir'd the Favour of the laſt King, being by him preferr'd to great Honours and Dignities. This laſted till her Marriage with the Duke of *Barr*, to whom ſhe was ſoon after actually married, and conducted into his own Country. The Marchioneſs of *Beaufort* remaining for this time the ſole Miſtreſs of the Court.

Now the Duke of *Bellgard* fearing leaſt his love to the Dutcheſs of *Guiſe* ſhould occaſion him to loſe his

his first Mistress, resolves to introduce a good Correspondency betwixt them, and seeing he could do what he pleas'd with the Marchioness, he perswades her since she was likely to be Queen, it might advance him to a Station in which he might be more Serviceable to her, if he could espouse Madamoiselle *d'Guise*; However, if she could not approve of the Marriage it self, yet the pretext of it would be a plausible means to remove the King's Suspicion, which he had already entertain'd, and into which it was more than probable he might again relapse; and farther told her, that the Suspicion of the King was a great stop to his Preferment, and that whatsoever in appearance he might do, yet she knew that his Heart was still with her. In brief, he knew so well how to Cajole her, that she resolv'd to give Countenance to Madamoiselle *d'Guise*, who

was glad to obtain a good Underſtanding with a Perſon of her Quality, and ſo Engagingly deported her ſelf, that ſhe indear'd the Marchioneſs to ſo extraordinary a Kindneſs for her, that they not only dreſs'd every day alike, but was as it were, knit like Joynt-Twins inſeperably together.

This blinded for a while the King, and diverted the Suſpicion that he began to have. But one of his Vale d'Chambers having ſeen a Letter which *Bellgard* writ to the Marchioneſs, which he had found one morning when ſhe was ill, upon her Twy-light, where *Arphure* had left it, not believing that any one ſhould have to do ſo early in the Room; he commanded him to have an Eye upon them; Which doing, (and believing like a good Servant, that his Maſter was eſpous'd to this Lady,) and imagining that he ſaw *Bellgard* one night entring in with her,

her, he gives advice immediately of it to the King, who preſently ſends *Praſlin*, (the afterwards Marſhall of *France*,) one of the Captains of his Guard, to Sacrifice him in the Chamber.

Praſlin was much ſurpriz'd at this Command, and the Love he had for them both, made it very ungrateful; but however he muſt go; He takes with him ſuch a number of the Guards as he thought fit that was walking in the Hall, takes ſo far a way about, and makes ſo much noiſe, that he found no body at his entrance into the Room, but Madam *Beaufort* alone, to whom he delivers his Meſſage. Who ſeeing him ſo unwilling to ſuprize them, promiſes never to forget ſo great a Kindneſs; and the Dutcheſs of *Guiſe* that was alſo privy to this action, conceiv'd ſo good an Opinion of him for it, that ſhe aſſiſted him in his progreſs to thoſe ſignal

Pre-

Preferments, which he afterwards enjoy'd till his Death.

Madam *d'Beaufort* in the interim, complains mightily of the Jealousies of the King; at which the King, seeming to be sensible of, and relent her wrong; promiseth her that it should be never the worse with her for it. But ceases not a little to Reproach her with *Bellgard*'s Letter, which she swore she had not read, and justifi'd her self (which was not very difficult to do) very well to the King. Though *Bellgard* himself found so ill a Treatment upon it, that he was forc'd to absent himself from the Court; and with no less a Condition, than that he should never presume to return again till he was Marry'd, and brought his Wife with him to the Court. The Duke of *Nevers*, his supporting Friend, was dead, and Madam *d'Beaufort*, found it too ill taken when she spoke for him,

that

that his ſhorteſt and beſt courſe was to Obey what was Commanded, though it was with the greateſt Regret.

During this Voyage, a * Wife of the Conſtable of *Montmorancy's*, whom he had lately Marry'd, came to the Court, a Lady who by the Excellency, or perhaps rather novelty of her Beauty, attracted the Eyes and Hearts of the Men, and by ſo doing the Envy of the Ladies, though (perhaps) through the natural height of her Temper, as well as of the exalted pre-eminency of her Place, regardleſs of both, ſhe as much undervalu'd the hatred of the Ladies, as the addreſſes of the Men.

The King alſo himſelf was a little touch'd, (for which I ſuppoſe the Marchioneſs will not pardon him)

* The Wife to the Conſtable of *Montmorancy*, was *Louiſe* of *Budos*, Vicount of *Portes*, and of *Catherine d'Clermont*.

However

However it hinders him not from taking all the occaſions of manifeſting his Affection to this new Beauty. Sacred and Inviolable is the Prerogative of Kings, and Unlimited, (eſpecially in that of Loving whom they pleaſe) and the Marchioneſs muſt not oppoſe it. Though Madam *de Montmorancy* ſuffers it more to excite Envy from the Ladies, than for any Pleaſure that ſhe could take in it, being not only lov'd, but ador'd by the Marqueſs of *Biron*, a Son of Mars, who had acquir'd the greateſt Reputation for Arms of any one of his time. But oh Unhappy Fortune! the admired Beauty doth no ſooner, (as it were) ſhow her ſelf to the World, but ſhe goes out of it again in one of her Childbeds; yet leaving two ſuch fair Copies of her Excellencies behind her,

a * Son

a * Son and a Daughter, made the World some competent Amends for the loss of so incomparable a Person. But these I shall speak more of elsewhere, being desirous now to finish the History of the Marchioness of *Beaufort*.

Who during this interval had a * Daughter, and not long after a Son, but the last of these, after the nullifying of her Marriage. Which so much elevated the Marchioness,

* The Son brought into the World by her before her death, was *Henry* Duke of *Montmorancy*, the second of that Name, Peer and Marshall of *France*, and afterwards Beheaded at *Thoulouse* in *October* 1632. and her Daughter *Charlotte Marguerete Montmorancy*, Wife to *Henry* of *Bourbon* first Prince of the Blood, deceased 1646. who had Issue the Princes of *Conde* and *Conty* and the Dutchess of *Longueville*.

* Madam *d'Beaufort* her Daughter, was *Catherine Henriette* Legitimate of *France*, Married 1619. to *Charles* of *Lorrain*, Duke of *Elbeuf*, of whom she had diverse Issue, and the Son she had soon after upon the disanulling of her Marriage, was *Alexander Vendosme* Grand Prior of *France*, who afterwards dy'd Prisoner in the Castle of *Vincennes*.

that

that ſhe left no ſtone unturn'd to bring to paſs her Marriage with the King. Who now more Amourous than ever, upon the Birth of theſe two Sons, gratifi'd her in all that ſhe could deſire, removing one of the Greateſt of his Council, who endeavoured to thwart this deſign. Knowing that he could obtain the Conſent of his Queen, and that there wanted nothing more but the Concurrence of the Pope to ratifie the diſſolution of his former Marriage, which was the only Obſtacle of this. To which purpoſe *Hilery* is diſpatch'd to *Rome*, the ableſt Man of his Council, and deſiring nothing more than to Oblige both the King and his Miſtreſs.

A little before this, the King had made her Dutcheſs; in which Dignity and Place ſhe ſo well behav'd her ſelf, that though ſhe could not be by all belov'd, yet ſhe was hated by none; and growing Big again, demean'd her ſelf with ſo much Gravity,

vity, Circumſpection, and ſo abſolute a Chaſtity, that ſhe conſorted only with the Veſtals, and in both Dreſs and Actions demonſtrated ſo perfect a Modeſty, that the King remembred with regret that ever he had ſuſpected her; and was melted down into the moſt invincible reſolution to make her his Wife.

At this time *Buſſy Lamet*, an old Courtier of no ſmall Account and Eſteem with the King, (both to Oblige the Marchioneſs, and to Incite the King by his Example) Marries a Miſtreſs of his by whom he had had ſeveral Children; which was of no ſmall moment to the Marchioneſs, for we are all not ill pleas'd with parallel Inſtances, (to render them the leſs culpable) when our Actions are otherwiſe not ſo juſtifiable in themſelves.

Commands were now given to the Ambaſſadour at *Rome*, to purſue the Diſſolution of the Marriage,

and to ſolicite the Conſent of the Queen, which was rendred the more Urgent by the Marchioneſs, becauſe being with Child, and near her production, ſhe was very unwilling that the Birth ſhe went with ſhould be Illegitimate; Who to make publick profeſſion of her Faith, Celebrates her *Eaſter* at *Paris*, Lodging in the Cloiſter of St. *Germain L'Auxerrois*; On Holy *Wedneſday*, ſhe was at Service, at a Church in the end of the Town, call'd the *Tenebris*, which they perform'd very Harmoniouſly; ſhe went her ſelf in a Litter, attended by a Captain of the Guards, but the Princeſſes in Coaches; and leaſt ſhe might be either too much crowded or obſerv'd, her Chapel was likewiſe cleared by the Captain of the Guards. Where during the time of the Office, ſhe entertain'd her ſelf, and Madamoiſelle *d'Guiſe*, who was with her, with Letters from *Rome*, by which ſhe was ſatisfi'd that her

Deſires

Deſires ſhould ſoon be accompliſh'd, and alſo from the King himſelf, intimating him ſo impatient to ſee her Queen, that he had remanded *du Freſne*, one of his Secretaries of State (a Perſon who becauſe related to her in Marriage, muſt needs be wholly devoted to her Intereſt) to *Rome*; to urge and preſs his Holineſs to a permiſſion of what he was ſo much reſolved to do; and in ſuch Prayers as theſe was the time of Devotion ſpent, But ended, the Marchioneſs, (who had gave Madamoiſelle *d'Guiſe* to Underſtand that ſhe was going to Bed, and had deſir'd the diverſion of her Company,) immediately betakes her ſelf to her Litter; and Madamoiſelle *d'Guiſe* to her Coach, cauſing her ſelf to be ſet down at the Dutcheſſes.

Whom (arriv'd) ſhe found not only undreſs'd, but in great affliction with her Head; and ſoon after ſhe falls into a ſtrong Convulſion,

yet out of which by ſtrength of Remedies ſhe was recover'd; and upon this would have writ to the King, had ſhe not been reattack'd and prevented by a ſecond Fit, after which receiving a Letter from the King, ſhe attempted alſo to read it, and was again retaken by a third, ſo that in the end encreaſing mightily upon her, and overpowering the unequal ſtrength of her Nature, they put too certain a period to her Life. On *Wedneſdey* night this Illneſs firſt took her, and on *Friday*, deliver'd by the force of Medicine, ſhe Dy'd on *Saturday* in the Evening, devoid of all Senſe, as far as any body could perceive.

The King who was now at one of his Houſes, was early enough advertis'd of this Sickneſs, but imagining it to be only the reſult and diſorder of Breeding, was not much mov'd with it at the firſt. But the Third-day-Meſſenger bringing him News both

both of its Danger and Continuance, he caus'd him to make towards *Paris*; who coming within ſix leagues of it (where he found all the Lords of his Court) they gave him to underſtand by the ſadneſs of their Countenances, that his Miſtreſs was dead; who after he had read the too fatal certainty of it in their looks and geſtures, was mightily Troubled, and required ſolitude, diſmiſſing all his Attendance, excepting *Buſſy Lamet*, (the Perſon before ſpoken of) and the Duke of *Retz*, who had the Character of being extream good Company; the laſt of theſe (giving him firſt a little time to vent his Paſſion) told the King, almoſt ſmiling, that (in his Opinion) he was very happy, and that weighing of his preſent Circumſtances, muſt needs induce him to believe it; and that the Gods had favour'd him by her death: The Royal concern was too great

at firſt to be laid by ſuch Expreſſions, but the King a little reviving, and calling to mind the Important Buſineſs he was about, (which was intimated by the Duke) he confeſs'd what he had ſaid to be true, and lifting up his Eyes to Heaven (not inſenſible both of this and all his other Mercies) makes ſuitable Returns to that Beneficent Hand from which he had receiv'd them, and ſo well contented himſelf, that within the ſpace of ſeaven weeks he became Enamour'd of Madam * *d'Antragues*, (the afterwards Marchioneſs of *Verneuil*) both very Young and Handſome, and of a good Houſe, and if not equalling the other in Beauty, yet exceeding her in Gayety, and ſo

* Madam *d'Antragues*, the afterwards Marchioneſs of *Verneuil*, was *Henriette* of *Balſac d'Antragues*, Sifter to *Charles* of *Vallois* Earl of *Auvergne*, afterwards Duke of *Angouleſme*, Natural Son to *Charles* the Ninth King of *France*.

well

well ſupplying her abſence, that ſhe (at the leaſt) ſtrook out all his Melancholly Reflections upon her death.

The Miniſters of State now ſeeing the Ambitious Marchioneſs thus ſtopp'd and controwl'd by Fate in her purſuit after Majeſty and the iminent danger that in this reſpect they was deliver'd from, by her death, was reſolv'd to prevent the ſame danger from this new Beauty, (whoſe height of Spirit they knew not to be inferiour to the others) and therefore expeditiouſly puſh'd on the King to Marriage, and he that was at *Rome* to mediate for it with the Marchioneſs of *Beaufort*, now mediates for it with the Princeſs of * *Florence*. To whom the Pope not only gave all his neceſſary conſent, but likewiſe the Queen *Margaret* all that Was de-

* The Princeſs of *Florence* was *Marie d'Medicis* Daughter to *Francis d'Medicis*, great Duke of *Tuſcany* and *Jane* Arch Dutcheſs of *Auſtria* by her Birth Queen of *Hungary* and *Bohemia*.

ſired,

ſired from her; inſomuch that the buſineſs was ſoon concluded that ſo it anticipated both the Imagination of the King, and knowledg of the Marchioneſs, who was now big, and conveigh'd in order to her lying down, to one of the Houſes of the King, towards which he conducted her with very good hopes, but geting ſome hurt by the way ſhe prov'd Abortive and was very ill; though through the aſſiſtance of the King, and the concurrance of all imaginable Remedies, ſhe came again to her health. It was at this time that ſhe heard that the Match was agreed upon betwixt the King and the Princeſs of *Florence*, upon which ſhe ſo impetuouſly taunted at the Amorous Prince that he had much adoe to reduce her to a good humour. And *Bellgard* (whom ſhe ſuſpected to be the cauſe of all this) for her not having given him that reception which he had formerly had with

the

the Marchioneſs of *Beaufort*, (and would have had with her) ſhe is reſolv'd to be reveng'd upon by the Prince of *Joinville*, (the afterwards Duke of *Chevreus*) a Prince Handſome and Young, and of a good Grace, and one of her Admirers, whom ſhe cauſeth to attempt his Life one night at his entrance into the Houſe of one *Sebaſtien Zamet* (with whom the King then Supp'd) there encountering him with his Sword. *Bellgard* was wounded, and his Servants ſeeing it, purſu'd the Prince of *Joinville*, whom they had certainly kill'd had it not been for the interpoſing of *Rambouillett*, a young Chevalier of a good Houſe, who was ſo much wounded in the Encounter, that it was believ'd he would have dy'd.

So o'erflow'd the King with Choler at this Action, that he would not

not only have puniſh'd the Prince, but have permitted the other to dye on his Wounds. Notwithſtanding he was ſo well lookt to by ſtealth, that he eſcap'd; and the Dutcheſs of *Guiſe* (Mother to the Prince) and his Siſter; obteyn'd his reconciliation with the King, tho both (much offended at this action,) ſuſpected that the Prince had no other cauſe to treat *Belgard* in this faſhion but only for his love to the Marchioneſs of *Vernueil*; thus all was ſoon appeas'd, and a motion of War made upon the Duke of *Savoy*, on the account of the Marquiſate of *Saluſſes*; which he had treacherouſly ſeiz'd upon and taken during the diverſion of the laſt King at *Blois*. For the King who by dint of Battle had recover'd all the reſt of his Kingdom, and inſtated himſelf in the hereditary ſeat of his Royal Anceſtors, could not bear that the Duke of *Savoy*, in competition with

with him ſo petty a Prince, ſhould pretend to exclude him from a Country that was his own due, and proper inheritance, which he had often demanded, and which the Duke of *Savoy* ſtood poſſeſs'd of, by no other means but that of a moſt unneighbourly and unjuſt ſurpriſe and fraudulent uſurpation. And the Duke of *Savoy* was now come, in order to ſome accommodation betwixt the King and himſelf, thinking poſſibly to render his deſigns more effectual, by being preſent in his own perſon. But indeed his chief dependence was upon the intelligence he had with the deceaſed Dutcheſs, in whoſe life-time he had aſſur'd the King of his intention to wait upon him, and had ſo much ingag'd himſelf by both what he writ and what he ſaid, that there was now no room for a retreat. At his coming there was nothing but feaſting and

gallantry

gallantry in the Court, and ſuch as was argumentative of a general ſatisfaction, he makes Preſents to all the handſome and principal Ladies of the Court, and it may be a little more than was for the benefit of ſome of them; and now the Ladies (as upon ſuch occaſions) conteſting for Precedency, and the King not determining the point, there occur'd a moſt pleaſant Diverſion both to the King and the Marchioneſs.

The Duke of *Savoy* return'd without doing any thing, and the King reſolved to make War upon him; which, as he goes to receive his Queen, the Princeſs of *Florence Maria d'Medicis*, (that Country lying in his way) he performed. Which (and which was ſoon) being ſubdu'd, the Pope intermediates for an Accommodation, and the King receives his Queen, whom he had before Eſpous'd by his deputed Proxy, his Uncle

(having

(having before ſent to him his Procuration by *Bellgard*, which much augmented the hatred of the Marchioneſs;) And thus his Majeſty obtain'd his deſire.

In the mean time the Marri'd Queen, was come as far as *Marſeille* to meet the King, thither conducted by his Aant the Dutcheſs (of the Houſe of the *Urſins*,) and the Dutcheſs of *Mantoue* her Siſter, and *Eleonor de Medicis* her Couſin German, a Perſon much eſteem'd in the Court of *France*, (and who had been much enamour'd of this Princeſs before ſhe was Queen) and there [redacted]ceiv'd by two Cardinals, the Conſtable, Chancellour, and the Duke of *Guiſe* that was Governour of the Province. By the Princeſſes Dowagers of *Nemours* and *Guiſe*, and many other Ladies, the Marchioneſs of *Guercheville* amongſt the reſt, whom the King had lov'd, and (finding perhaps more

Vertuous than he desir'd) had promis'd to make Maid of Honour to his Queen; keeping his Word with her after the end of ten Years, it being so long since he first lov'd her.

The Queen was brought on with all sorts of Magnificence to the Town of *Lyons*, where she was expected by the King; and the Nuptial Ceremonies perform'd: The two Daughters of the Constable, the Dutchess of *Vantadour*, and the Countess of *Auvergne*, the afterwards Dutchess of *Angoulesme*, being here; both very Handsom[illegible]nd the first belov'd of *Eleonor d'Medicis*, who (as before said) was under the Repute of such a Gallant Man; but his Love as volatile as he, stay'd no longer with him than he at the Court.

Though it is otherways with the Duke of *Guise*, and *Espernon*, betwixt whom the quarrel was so great, that it

it divided the whole Court; though at last reconcil'd by the King, and without doubt not without some intention himself upon the Dutchess of *Vantadour*; yet notwithstanding he relinquisheth not his Amour with the Marchioness of *Verneuile*, commanding daily his Messengers to her; who now ceaseth not to treat the Queen even after her own inventions, and there wanted not those that made Report of it to the Queen, which made so great a broil, that it almost embaras'd in it the whole Court; some reporting things to the Queen; others to the Marchioness; the first, that they might insinuate themselves into the favour of the Queen; and the latter, that they might engage the Marchioness; and how many others there might be (He only knows that knows all things) that only to render the breach so much

the more wide and incurable, might act on both ſides.

Theſe Feuds did not preſently appear, but during the Queens Voyage to *Paris*, there was another Intreague that amuſed the Court; the King having ſent, with Madamoiſelle, to the Queen, the Dutcheſs of *Nemours*, as Governeſs of her Houſhold, the Marchioneſs of *Guercheville*, as Maid of Honour, and Madam *d'Ritchelieu* as Lady of the Attire; the Queen refus'd the laſt, ſaying, that ſhe had *Leonora* already in the Place, who had not only all along ſerv'd her, but whom ſhe had now brought Over on purpoſe for that Place; to which the King reply'd, that having given it to Madam *d'Ritchelieu*, ſhe was deſirous of that Office; in ſo much that this made an abſolute Rupture betwixt the Marchioneſs and the Queen, and the whole Retinue that was ſent her was remanded back again

again to the King. The Sagacious Madamoiſelle *d'Guiſe*, ſoon knew what Profit ſhe might reap from this occaſion, and takes part incontinently with the Queen, gaining by it a particular account and favour with her: The ſame day ſhe arriv'd at *Paris*, the King Commanded the Dutcheſs of *Nemours* to fetch the Marchioneſs of *Verneuil*, and preſent her to the Queen, which the wary Princeſs declining, would fain have excus'd her ſelf from, ſaying, That by ſo doing, ſhe ſhould loſe all her Credit with her Miſtreſs; but the King, contrary to his Cuſtom, (which was always to be Courteous) Commanding her ſomething ruffly to do it, ſhe Obey'd. But the Queen aſtoniſht at ſuch a ſurprize, receiv'd the Marchioneſs very coldly, who notwithſtanding being of a Nature well aſſur'd, addreſs'd her ſo familiarly, and with ſuch freedom and talkativeneſs, that

ſhe compell'd her in the end to entertain her. The Dutcheſs in the interim that introduc'd her, received little ſatisfaction upon it from the King, and a very bad Countenance from the Queen, who was ſo much irritated by this action, as never after to forget it; and *Leonora* perceiving by this, that ſhe was not ſecure in her Place, without the Approbation of the King, ſollicited the Marchioneſs to be her Friend, promiſing her, that if ſhe could acquire the Royal Approbation, ſhe would put her into a capacity of doing what ſhe pleas'd with the Queen. Which the Marchioneſs undertaking, ſo well effected, that the ſmiles of Majeſty attended it, it much mittigating the former diſplacency of the Queen; which the King obſerving, and being weary of his Stages to the Marchioneſs two or three times in the day, cauſed

Lodg-

Lodgings to be prepar'd for her in the *Louvre*, and brings her thither, which after ſome little time rekind'led again the jealouſie of the Queen, ſhe being ever and anon entertain'd by ſeveral hands, with the diſcourſes of the Marchioneſs, which ſavour'd of ſo little reſpect, that it began to make a breach of that Intelligence that was betwixt them; Both theſe was Big together, and it was no ſmall difficulty for the King ſo to accommodate himſelf to them both, that neither might be diſoblig'd, the Queen he was to treat with all the reſpect due to her Quality, and he delighted more in the company of the Marchioneſs. Every one alſo that would not diſpleaſe the King, reſorted to her, which the Queen took very ill, and indeed, ſo near were their Lodgings, and ſo much within each others inſpection, that it prov'd the cauſe of perpetual diſ-

ferences

ferences betwixt them. In the mean time *Leonora*, by Preſents, kept her correſpondence with the Marchioneſs, not queſtioning but it might conſiſt with a good underſtanding with her Miſtreſs, the Charm only of whoſe favour (it ſeems) having very few other Allurements, had procured her a Lover, a certain Gentleman of *Florence*, that came along with the Queen, who now made his court, and was ſo fortunate to be approv'd; His Name was *Concbini*, of good Extraction, and therefore *Leonora*, who her ſelf proceeded from the ſcum of the People, thought him no ill Choice; but yet there was ſome difficulty before this Marriage could come to paſs, for the King did not love him, and thoſe of the Houſe of the Queen hated him, and the Queen her ſelf fear'd to ſpeak of it, leſt it ſhould be refus'd. In

fine,

fine, consulting together, they made recourse to her Omnipotency the Marchioness of *Beaufort*, and succeeded so well in it, that he obtain'd the freedom of being with her as often as he pleas'd. With which the Marchioness her self was not ill satisfi'd, knowing that by this she oblig'd *Leonora*, and through her the Queen, whose favour, though she did not so much respect, yet she valu'd her Resentments.

After *Concini* had had this access to *Leonora*, he makes his Applications, that he might Marry her. The Dutchess makes some difficulty of it at the first, knowing the Aversion of the King to these two Persons, but in the end, through the Intercession likewise of *Leonora*, who engag'd that the Queen should speak of it too, she took up a resolution of causing this Marriage to succeed; the Queen sends daily to her

her Lodgings, to know the News, makes her half the Presents she receives, and treats her better than either of the Princesses. But before this Match is accomplish'd, the Queen and Marchioness are to be in the Straw.

The Queen is first, and presents the World with the most Illustrious and Happy Prince *Louis*, Dauphin the Thirteenth; and a Month after the Marchioness brings to light Prince *Henry* of *Bourbon*, (afterwards Bishop of *Metz*,) both of which are welcom'd into the World with the greatest Joy, which continu'd all the Winter; and Perparations are made by the Queen for the space of three months, for a Ball, in which the Marchioness had a part, which so pleas'd the King, that he consented to the Marriage of *Conchini* and *Leonora*; and that the Queen might not only bestow her in Marriage,

but

but that she might also give her such fortune, as might comport with the quality of her place. The good intelligence lasted all the Winter and part of the next Summer, but the Court is impatient of too long a Calm, and every one promiseth himself some advantage from change and competitions.

The King a little before, had taken notice of * Madam *d'Villars*, Sister to the Dutchess of *Beaufort*, who indeed had no other Beauty but that of her Youth and her Haire. This Lady envy'd the Marchioness extreamly, in that she had (as she thought) ravish'd from her the favour of the King, and as she was malicious, so she began to put her

* Madam *d'Villars* the Kings Mistress, after the Decease of her Sister the Dutchess of *Beaufort* is the same was hinted before the Marchioness of *Villars* or *Cerisay*.

Malice

Malice into practice; revealing to the Queen her intentions, whom she knew to be grown weary of the audaciousness of the Marchioness, and not unlikely to favour her designs, which she did, and neither *Leonora*, nor *Conchini*, discover'd any thing of the intreague; the first of these being but seldom with the Queen, and the last sitting down by his present fortune was not inquisitive into the affair. I have otherwhere said, that the Prince of *Joynville*, was a long time in Love with the Marchioness of *Vernuielle*, and now he becomes enamour'd of Madam *d'Villers*, who was so subtle and knew so well how to perswade him, that she got from him the Letters the Marchioness had writ to him, during that Amour, in which she had fawn'd officiously upon him, and contemptuously treated both the King and the Queen, who upon the sight

of

of them, (though she beheld them with the disdain they deserv'd) could not refrain from letting her know she was pleas'd, and perswaded her to show them to the King. At first she could not consent knowing the great credit of the Marchioness with the King, and fearing her spirit, but in the end is prevail'd upon by the perswasions of the Queen. Whilst Mademoiselle *d'Guise* that introduc'd her to the Queen (notwithstanding the vivacity of her Wit) could not discover at the first what should be the cause that she should be in so particular a grace with the Queen that carried it so coldly to all the rest of the World; being a thing (she thought) too intricate to salve. And indeed they industriously hid the matter from her, because it tended so much towards the disadvantage of her Brother. After the Train had been laid for some

days, and contriv'd so well, that the ill, malicious Work might be done with some security, and the plotted mischief effectually accomplish'd; Fire is to be given, and the Marchioness, if possible, to be blown up, taking then the King at an advantage, Madam *d'Villars* shows him, perhaps, what he was not willing to see, the aforesaid Testimonies of the Marchionesses Infidelity and Despight, and thus the soft-mouth'd Syren accosted him; "Royal "Sir, The Obligations I am under "to Your Bounty, and the Affecti-"on I always entertain'd for so ex-"cellent a Personage as your Self, "would not suffer me any longer "to conceal the Indignities offered "You: You, who are, or ought to "be, the Master of others, and not "sure, their Scorn and Contempt, "and one of the most deserving Men "in the World.

This

This good Prince, who eaſily admitted himſelf to be flatter'd, and gave no unwilling Ear when they inſiſted, eſpecially, upon his merit, (which I ſuppoſe) the ſubtle Paraſite well enough underſtood, thank'd her for her Intelligence ſhe had given him, and ſo unutterably ſtomachs the unworthy uſage he has had, that he ſends immediately one of his Confidents to Reproach the Marchioneſs with her unfaithfulneſs, proteſting that ſhe ſhould never ſee his Face again.

She was not at this time at her Lodgings in the *Louvre*, but in the Town, where ſhe was much ſurpris'd with this News; but in the midſt of this Diſorder ſo well commanded her ſelf, and conſerv'd ſo much reſpect for the Perſon that ſent it, that ſhe reply'd after this manner, with much temper. "As

"I have never done any thing yet, "(I am assur'd) to offend the King, "so I cannot divine the Reasons for "which he should thus use me, and "I hope the Truth coming to light, "will sufficiently revenge me of those "that have made these false Impres-"sions upon him. And with this retir'd into her Closset, where she gave that loose to the extreme trouble upon her Spirits, which she thought was not discreet to do before them.

In the mean time *Bellgard* having learn'd this Intreague, gives notice of it to Madamoiselle *d'Guise*, who though she did not love the Prince, yet he foresaw the displeasure it would give to his Sister, if it should not be remedy'd, and therefore contrives a way, which was this.

A Secretary of the Duke of *Guise*'s counter-

counterfeiting in perfection all sorts of Hands, it is resolv'd that the Prince of *Joynville*, (amourous of Madam *d'Villars* as before) should affirm that the Secretary by his Art having got some Writings of the Marchioness, imitated them so well, that the Prince himself and Madam *d'Villars*, with whom he was in Love, and who mortally hated the Marchioness, combin'd together by his skill, to counterfeit those Letters on purpose to undermine her, which the Marchioness understanding seconded so well, that she reingratiated her self with the King, and rendred him such reasons for the Credibility of this Assertion, that she totally proselited him to its Belief; and though his Prejudice at the first was not so easie to allay, yet at last he yielded himself vanquish'd; as much possibly by his own inclination to think well

her, as by the ſmooth coercion of her Tongue.

But the Prince of *Joinville* however (notwithſtanding the Subtlety of this evaſion) is commanded away into *Hungary*; where the *Turk* was making War; Madam *d'Villars* to her Houſe, and the Secretary to Priſon; ſee hence the conſequence of intermedling, Madam *d'Villars* meets the due reward of her Actions, and is diſmiſt with ſhame to her Houſe, and hath created to herſelf a great and powerful Enemy.

During theſe bickerings and hurleburlies, the Queen's hatred to the Marchioneſs was more conſpicuous, for thinking her now to be almoſt ruin'd ſhe doth her utmoſt to ruin her quite, and is daily huing at what ſhe thinks is already declining, her Fortune, to which the ill offices ſtill daily

daily render'd her by the Marchioneſs, do more exaſperate her, who is always pecking at the Favourites of the Queen, and the Queen on the other ſide deteſting thoſe that are her Creatures; but behold another occurrence.

The King is advis'd of the Marchioneſſes keeping a Correſpondence with *Spain*, and it went ſo far that ſhe was Arreſted for it, and the Earl of *Auvergne* her Brother; but ſince you have a farther relation of theſe Things amongſt the Hiſtorians, I ſhall ſay no more but that Madam *Villars* and her Lover was again recall'd upon it.

It hap'ned now at this time that the King became enamour'd of a fair Lady whom he Marry'd quickly after, the Counteſs of *Eſtanges*, and a little after this, another far more beau-

beautiful, whom he alſo Marry'd to draw her from the place in which ſhe was, agreeing with her Conſort that Marry'd her, that he ſhould abandon her the ſame Night after the Cerimony was perform'd.

In the mean time the Marchioneſs obtain'd the Royal Grace, being remitted from her Priſon, to her Houſe at *Vernueil*, the King was pleas'd with his new Miſtreſs, and it was very calm Weather with the Court; the King alſo at this time Marryed Madamoiſelle *d'Guiſe* to a Prince of the Blood Royal, with whom the Queen gave, what was neither beneath her own Quality to give or the others to receive.

The King ſeeing again the Marchioneſs of *Vernueil*, had a great Inclination to her, yet kept it ſo ſecretly, that it was long before it came

came to the Queens knowledg, but as ſoon as ſhe knew it ſhe was ſtrangly troubled, and abſolutely forbid all ſuch Perſons any acceſs to her, that ſhould at any time viſit the Marchioneſs, under the pain of being driven from her preſence; which the King took ill, but yet was forc'd to bare with it, a little after the King (a never failing Gallant) becomes Enamour'd of the Dutcheſs of *Nevers*, a Princeſs of great Vertue, that very much honour'd his perſon, but had no great eſteem for his paſſion. This ſeaſon happned commodiouſly for the Kings deſigns, for the King intending to Chriſten the young Prince's his Sons, had invited the Dutcheſs of *Mantoue* to be Godmother to the Eldeſt.

This

This Princeſs was Siſter to the Queen, and her Husband a near Relation to the Duke of *Neverrs*, inſomuch that he obliged the Dutcheſs of *Nevers* to ſtay longer than uſual at the Court, (to give oppertunity to the King to purſue his Amour) the King ſeeking all occaſions to ſpeak to her, whilſt ſhe on the other hand avoided it as much as poſſible, waving it to the very utmoſt limits of a due reſpect; in the end the Ceremonies being perform'd, the Duke and Dutcheſs of *Nevers* without ſo much as bidding adieu retir'd themſelves from the Court, the latter reſolving never again to return; the Duke, being ſoon after employ'd as Envoy to *Rome*, went herſelf along with him thither, and oblig'd the King to diſpoſſeſs himſelf of a fancy, that not only prov'd fruitleſs, but very troubleſome to him; being not accuſto-

accuſtom'd to the difficulties he found in this Amour. This Voyage endur'd above a Year; and the Dutcheſs at her return came to do reverence to the Queen, the King being then with her. Upon which the King beholding her with a bended brow, let her know aloud that he thought ſhe was extreamly chang'd; but the Dutcheſs taking no notice at all of it, continu'd ſtill to deport herſelf in the ſame manner, and to ſpend the reſt of her life, in all the modeſty that could become, or was requiſite in an excellent and vertuous Woman.

The King by this was again reconcil'd to the Marchioneſs, *d'Vernaeil*, which the Queen ſo impatiently bore, that notwithſtanding all the endeavours of the Council to prevent them, and to ſhow how diſagreeable they was to Majeſty,

it

it fomented most extream differences betwixt them: And now there happen'd a very surprising accident, that made much noise, and indeed was verry strange, the King and Queen going to a house of theirs near *Paris*, on the other side the River *Sein*, they was obliged to pass it in the * Ferry, the Coach with these two in it, accompany'd only with the Princess *de Conty*, and the Duke of *Montpensier*, by some accident or other, was overturn'd before it came to the Shore; the King and Duke escaping very well, leaping soon enough out of the Coach; but the Ladies ran some hazard, and drank a little more than they desir'd, or rather the ambitious Element squench'd its thirst a little too much upon the

* The Ferry spoken of in which the King and Queen pass'd the River *Sien*, overturning, was the cause of a Bridge being soon after built over that River.

Ladies.

Ladies. Some few days after the King going to Viſit the Marchioneſs of *Vernueil*, ſhe condoles him for the unhappy chance, and tells him ſhe was in great pain for him, but if ſhe had been preſent, and had ſeen the King leaping ſafe out of the Coach, ſhe ſhould have had the civility to have ſaid let the Queen drink, (a ſaying it ſeems us'd upon the Ceremony of chooſing King and Queen, which ſhe wittily made uſe of upon this occaſion) which when the Queen came to hear, ſhe flew out into ſo great and implacable a rage, that ſhe was fifteen days without chanſing ſo much as one word with the King, ſo that Perſons of great Figure and Quality was forc'd to interpoſe to qualifie her Reſentments; in the end the accord was made,

and there must be a Ball to attest it, wherein the Queen resolv'd to give her self the pleasure of having a part. But it is unhappily interrupted, for the King insisting upon the reception of the Countess of *Morett* also into it, and the Queen opposing and refusing it, it made such a rupture betwixt them, that it broke off the Ball; (This Countess of *Morett* is the Lady that I before said, was quitted of her Husband.)

Who was now lov'd by the Prince *d'Joinville*, whom she did not ill entertain, but the unhappiness is, it comes to the Kings ear, who immediately going to her, upbraids her with Perfidiousness; who having nothing else to say in her own vindication, tells

tells him that the Prince intended to marry her. The King with this returns with all the ſpeed that a Jealous Fury could ſupply, and cauſes the Mother of this Prince to come before him, to whom he Complains, and threatens that the Prince, (who he ſaid was too often guilty of ſuch faults to be pardon'd) ſhould be rigorouſly puniſh'd; Telling her, "that he expected on the pain of "his ſevereſt diſpleaſure, that he "ſhould perform what he had "promis'd to the Counteſs, which "was to marry her; and that "though he could ſuffer that his "Miſtreſſes ſhould be eſpouſed, yet "not that they ſhould otherways be "enjoy'd, and that it was for the "alone ſake of the Mother (her "ſelf) that he Pardon'd the Son. The Princeſs being in a ſtation,

ſhe thought, above ſuch Treatments from the King, anſwer'd with ſo much Indignation, and rais'd the King into ſo high a Paroxiſme, that he ſent his Guards immediately to ſeize him, and all the favour that could be obtain'd for him by his Friends was that he ſhould relinquiſh the Realm never to return to it again, and he was not recall'd again till the death of the King.

The Duke of *Montpenſier* a little before theſe things was dead, and the King, whoſe unfix'd and wandering Apetite induc'd him ſtill to the perſuit of new Miſtreſſes, and to gratifie himſelf in all Varieties of his Inclination, reſolv'd to make Love to his Widdow, wiſely penſitating, that it would more become his Quality

to

to Love, and be beloved of a Princeſs, than ſuch that was of a meaner Extraction, and indeed no better than fair Impoſters that did only banter and deceive him.

And reſolv'd to ſerve himſelf upon this occaſion, of a Lord of his Court, equip'd with all the poſſible Accompliſhments of his Quality, (his Name was Count *de Craimail*, making known this deſign to him. He judg'd it a difficult thing to bring to effect, but however promiſeth the King to tell her the news.

The Neighbourhood of his Houſe to that of the Dutcheſſes, and the excellency of his Addreſs was the reaſon of the King's employing of him in this affair, which he re-

ſolv'd to undertake, if the Dutcheſs would hearken, which yet he could not believe. He acted ſo well in the buſineſs that he prevail'd with the Dutcheſs to come to the Court, where the King ſoon diſcover'd the impregnableneſs of her Vertue, and reſolv'd no more to attempt it.

The Duke of *Guiſe*, was now ſo much in Love with the Marchioneſs of *Vernueil*, that he promiſeth to Marry her; and the Marchioneſs willing to make uſe of his Paſſion, either to inflame the King that began to neglect her, to a greater obſervance, or to oblige the Duke irrevertibly to his Promiſe, cauſes in the name of ſome other Perſons (reſerving that due reſpect to their Quality, not to do it in their own) the

Bains

Bains to be publiſhed betwixt them. Which the King hearing of, was greatly enrag'd with them both, and eſpecially with the Duke of *Guiſe*; But his Relations knowing him to be innocent, grew ſo clamorous upon the Marchioneſs, as the only Author of this action, on purpoſe to render him odious to the King, that it went no farther, the Duke only retiring to his Government till the rumour was a little ceas'd.

The Queen having again taken up her deſign of making the Ball before hinted; amongſt the Ladies that was engag'd in it, the incomparable Madam of *Montmorency*, was one; a Lady ſo young, that ſhe had but juſt as it were left to be Child, and ſo Beautiful, that ſhe was miraculous, and in her actions ſo agreeable, that ſhe was a Marvail throughout, inſomuch that

that the King ſeeing her dance with a Dart in her Hand, repreſenting one of the Nymphs of *Diana*, found his Heart ſo throughly pierced with it, that the wound accompany'd him to his Grave.

It would fill a Volume ſhould I recount all the Accidents of this Amour, from which at laſt the Royal Lover raviſh'd by Death, left ſuch Subjects behind him, as could not ſo properly be ſaid to Love, as Adore him.

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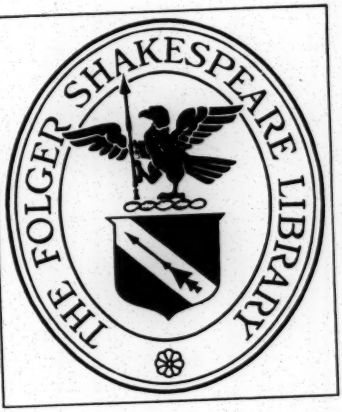
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